



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Robbinsdale man charged with bank, identity theft

A 34-year-old Robbinsdale man was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury on 14 counts of bank fraud, two counts of aggravated identity theft and one count of false representation of a Social Security number.

The indictment alleges that from Jan. 24, 2007 to May 7, 2007, Arthur Sistrunk fraudulently obtained money from financial institutions in the metro area by using the name and personal identification information of unwitting third parties, depositing counterfeit checks into those newly opened bank accounts, and then withdrawing money from those accounts before the bank recognized that the checks were counterfeit.

The indictment alleges that Sistrunk did knowingly transfer, possess and use, without lawful authority, a means of identification of unwitting third parties in connection with the scheme to defraud the financial institutions.

If convicted, Sistrunk faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine on each bank fraud count, two years in prison on each identity theft count and five years on the false representation of a Social Security number. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Social Security Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tricia A. Tingle.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.